

ENLIGHTENING OVERMYER.

Further Examples of Paternalism Under Which We Have Lived.
To Governor Overmyer:

So we see that the principal of individualism in our government structure is pretty thoroughly played out—indeed was ignored in our economy very early in our existence as a nation; and a system of corporations and combines wielded by the crafty and cunning few substituted in its stead. Our fathers, so jealous of a titled aristocracy and of artificial dignities that they forbade their creation, never dreamed of a far more deleterious and dangerous agency proceeding from perpetuities and vested rights to pray upon poor humanity, and therefore, left the door wide open to these with the results that have come to pass in our day and which have radically altered the whole theory and character of their work. And every instinct and interest of designing man contributed to this change. His ambition as well as his avarice and greed was antagonistic and inimical to the simple theory of Jefferson of a plain simple governmental institution to protect all and favor none. Under such a system the new-fledged statesman couldn't spread himself in the sight of his fellows and the world. And those who live by the sweat of other men's faces (and their number is legion), couldn't avail themselves of such a government to feather their nests and live in ease, luxury and splendor. Therefore, it was predestined to be undermined by these two classes, who are always and everywhere too much for poor, untutored and unsophisticated human nature in every age and country.

And so we have lived for years under paternalism—paternalism for the benefit of the few and powerful at the expense of the masses. Every trust and combine, and every corporation is paternalism for the benefit of a class. But the latter cry out lustily against paternalism (that is, government favor and partiality) if you propose to take it away from them and confer it and its benefits upon the whole instead of the powerful few. And how long will mankind submit to such deception and fraud? Or rather how long before mankind will get their eyes open to such partiality and deception, of which they are the victims? We alluded to the bank and money monopoly in our last. But we can't let it pass without declaring again and again that this species of government paternalism and special favor is the most damnable of the whole brood. Think of the government deliberately placing the money of the country in the hands of a select few and thus enabling them to levy tribute on society as a condition of having the use of its own money. Furnishing the select few with a duplicate capital with which to do business, and that almost free; while they are permitted to charge the public all the way from 6 to 10 and 12 per cent. for the use of the same. Does the farmer or mechanic get like favors from their government? No, they can't raise a dime out of her coffers at any percentage though they should pile their securities mountain high no matter how sacred or momentous the purpose for which they should demand it. And this, remember, is paternalism—paternalism for those within the charmed circle. Those without are the ones who pay the shot; for this accursed device and invention, has drained production of not less than 3,000 millions of dollars in the last thirty years—a sum, that, left in the pockets of the people, would have rendered them easy in their

finances now, whereas they are now wallowing in the mire of despair.

Let us cite two or three more examples to the same effect. Think of our several governments and the people in their sovereign capacity under the tutelage of the old parties and of cunning and designing men, constructing 176,000 miles of railways in this country and then making a free present of them to great and powerful syndicates and corporations headed by their Goulds, Huntingtons and Sanfords, and bidding them run the same in their own interest and for their own benefit subject only to their caprice and conscience. For of these 176,000 miles, 100,000 of them at least were built with funds and lands owned by the government and bonds sold by the people. Those of Kansas, as mentioned in his message of a few years ago, declared "were wholly constructed by the people," and then delivered over to the sharpers who stood ready to appropriate them; while the people have been contending with them ever since and protesting against their extortion and abuse of power. And thus we have one of our systems of highways owned and controlled by those whose interest it is to get all they can out of them and bid "the people be d—d." Was ever such stolidness on the part of man known or such an open, bare-faced and unnecessary surrender of his vital interests to his enemies recorded? As well surrender the common highways of the country to Jay Gould & Co., and bid them run them for their own benefit, regardless of the public interest and well being, or subject only to such regulations as the latter can recover from subsidized legislators and hostile, quibbling courts of law owned by such corporations themselves. For the worst such courts could do, they couldn't get over the fact that railroads are, in law, substantially highways, established by and designed for the benefit and behoof of the people; but then they (the courts) proceed to weed out as far as possible all vitality from such a principle and deliver them over to the unregulated and unrestrained use and control of those upon whom the people, in their folly, have bestowed them. And here is paternal government with a vengeance. Paternal government with us consists in nursing and bolstering up the favorites of the family. If it should favor all alike from A to Z no one would be specially benefited, and that is not the theory or design. Therefore, all that is left us to secure a turn-about in its administration, so that those heretofore turned down in its operation will come uppermost and secure their share of its benefits and blessings.

But there is another most pregnant example of paternalism under our government, to which little attention has been directed, but which illustrates the momentous advantages of those who secure a monopoly of government benefits and blessings. I allude to the whisky manufacture and the whisky ring. We have recently seen how government action under the new tariff bill affects that interest to the tune of hundreds of millions put in its pocket. The government takes the whisky interest under its special care and protection, as most know, and with what effect? Let the following from Senator Windom, in congress, a few years ago, answer:

"Let us glance at the advantages to the whisky owner from the proposed partnership with the government:

"First, it will give him an indefinite period, mainly at the expense of the United States, in which to ripen his

whisky, and thereby greatly increase its value from age.

"New whisky of this kind sells for from 35 to 45 cents per gallon, exclusive of tax. We will call it 40 cents for the purpose of this calculation. When from five to eight years old, it is 'ordinarily worth from \$2.50 to \$3 per gallon.' We will assume it to be \$2.75. I will assume a ripening period of six years in bond, and endeavor to state the financial advantages to the owner under the proposed bill. The cost of storage is 60 cents per barrel, or 1 1/4 cents per gallon per annum, making 9 cents per gallon in six years. The cost of insurance is a little less than 1 cent per gallon per annum. We will call it 5 cents for six years. The actual leakage for six years is about 6 1/2 gallons to each barrel of 40 gallons, which at 40 cents per gallon, makes a loss of \$2.60 per barrel, or 6 1/2 cents per gallon for six years. The interest at 6 per cent. on original cost, at 40 cents per gallon for six years, is about 15 1/2 cents. These, I believe, constitute all the expenses of the owner for the period named.

"The account at the end of six years for one gallon would therefore stand about as follows:

| | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| By sale..... | CR. | \$2 75 |
| To original cost, leakage loss, cost of storage, insurance, interest at 6 per cent. on original cost, amount of tax..... | DR. | 1 65 |
| Net profit per gallon..... | | \$1 10 |

"On the 85 million gallons now in bond, the net profit therefore would be in six years 93 1/2 million dollars. It is in evidence before the investigating committee that whisky eight years old

Continued on next page.

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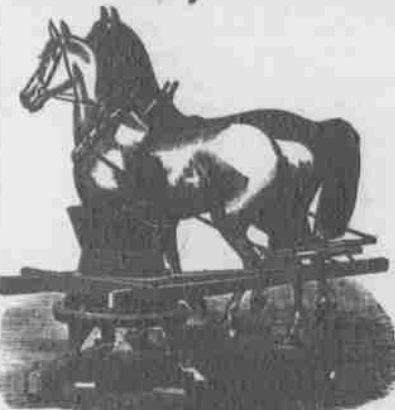
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[First published August 1, 1894.]

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

Substitute for Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 1 and 2.

Be it resolved by the legislature of the state of Kansas: two-thirds of the members elected to each house thereof, concurring therein.

SECTION 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, or rejection, namely: That section 1, article 5, of the constitution of the state of Kansas be amended so that the same shall read as follows: "Section 1. Every person of the age of 21 years and upwards belonging to the following classes, who shall have resided in Kansas six months next preceding any election, and in the township or ward in which she or he offers to vote, at least thirty days next preceding such election shall be deemed a qualified elector. First—Citizens of the United States. Second—Persons of foreign birth who have declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States conformable to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization."

SEC. 2. This proposition shall be submitted to the electors of this state at the general election of the representatives to the legislature in the year 1894, for their approval, or rejection; those voting in favor of this proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "For the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" those voting against the said proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "Against the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" said ballots shall be received and such vote taken, counted, canvassed and returns made thereof in the same manner and in all respects as provided for by law; as in the case of the election of representatives to the legislature.

SEC. 3. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above resolution originated in the senate January 16, 1893, and passed that body February 3, 1893.

PERCY DANIELS, President of Senate.

W. L. BROWN, Secretary of Senate.

Passed the house March 1, 1893.

GEORGE L. DOUGLASS, Speaker of House.

FRANK L. BROWN, Chief Clerk of House.

Approved March 6, 1893, 3:50 p. m.

L. D. LEWELLING, Governor.

STATE OF KANSAS,

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

I, R. S. OSBORN, secretary of state of the state of Kansas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original enrolled resolution now on file in my office, and that the same took effect by publication in the statute book May 18, 1893.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my official seal. Done at Topeka, Kas., this 25th day of July, A. D. 1894.

R. S. OSBORN, Secretary of State.